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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago, Ill.

July 15, 1944

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

PHILATELIC DATA ON
1944-45 DUCK STAMP

NOTE: A photograph of the artist's design is available upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Chicago 54, Illinois.

Stamp collectors who are fortunate enough to own a complete set of Federal migratory bird hunting stamps, more familiarly known to hunters and philatelists as "duck stamps", can now add the eleventh of this series to their collection, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Issued annually, the new 1944-45 stamp was placed on sale at all first- and second-class post offices on July 1.

The design of the new stamp shows three white-fronted geese, part of a flock "coming in." It is taken from a drawing by Walter Weber, noted wildlife artist of Washington, D.C.

Since first issued in August 1934, duck stamps have become familiar to wildfowlers, philatelists and conservationists throughout the country. Anyone may purchase the stamp, singly, in blocks, or in complete sheets of 28 stamps. About twice the size of a special delivery stamp, the duck stamp costs \$1 each. Each year the Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the duck stamp funds, has a distinctive design struck off.

Migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age are required by law to have these stamps in their possession while hunting and each hunter must cancel his stamp with his signature.

Rated as one of the most attractive of the U.S. Revenues, the duck stamp continues to increase in popularity among stamp collectors. Although no exact figures are available, it has been estimated that some 20,000 are purchased annually by philatelists.

Back issues, previous to 1941, are exceedingly rare and hard to find due to the fact that when the stamps were first issued in 1934 the law required that all unsold stamps should be destroyed after the year of issue had expired. In 1941, however, the Department of the Interior Appropriation Act, signed by the President on June 28, carried a provision which permitted all unsold stamps to be turned over to the philatelic agency of the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., and "therein placed on sale until disposed

of or until the Congress otherwise provides." Private collectors or dealers are the only source of supply for the early issues.

For the benefit of collectors, the following philatelic data on the new stamp is supplied: Color: "Red-Orange". Origin of material: Photograph of a wash drawing by Walter A. Weber, furnished by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Designers: Central design by Walter A. Weber; frame and lettering by William K. Schrage. Engravers: Vignette by Matthew D. Fenton; frame, lettering and numeral by George L. Euber. The plates of 112 subjects each are numbered 155590 and 155603.

The artist, Walter A. Weber, was born in Chicago in 1906. He attended the Chicago Art Institute and American Academy of Art and was graduated from the University of Chicago in 1927. In 1928 he went to the South Seas with the Crane Pacific Expedition, as artist and ornithologist. On his return to Chicago in 1929, he joined the staff of the Field Museum. He spent six months in British Columbia studying bird painting under Major Allan Brooks.

For two years Mr. Weber was artist and exhibit designer for the biology section of the Century of Progress Exposition. Following that he was a free lance artist until 1935 when he joined the National Park Service as a wildlife technician. For several years he served as Chief Scientific Illustrator with that agency in Washington, D.C. During that period Mr. Weber made the paintings and drawings for the books, "Fading Trails", and "Meeting the Mammals." Later he became assistant curator, Division of Birds, National Museum, Washington.

At present, Mr. Weber's work is chiefly for the National Geographic Magazine. The most notable series which have appeared to date in this magazine are "Deer of the World" and "Cats of the World." He resides in Vienna, Virginia.